

VZCZCXYZ0004  
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHGV #1183 3521813  
ZNY SSSSS ZZH  
O 181813Z DEC 09  
FM USMISSION GENEVA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0760  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEKDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEKJCS/CJCS WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEKJCS/VCJCS WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RHEHNSC/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE 5830  
RHMFISI/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RHMFISI/DTRA ALEX WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUESDT/DTRA-OSES DARMSTADT GE IMMEDIATE  
RUENAAA/CNO WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RHMFISI/DIRSSP WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
INFO RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ASTANA PRIORITY 3009  
RUEHKV/AMEMBASSY KYIV PRIORITY 2019  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 7226  
RUEHRK/AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK PRIORITY 0066

S E C R E T GENEVA 001183

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR T, VCI AND EUR/PRA  
DOE FOR NNSA/NA-24  
CIA FOR WINPAC  
JCS FOR J5/DDGSA  
SECDEF FOR OSD(P)/STRATCAP  
NAVY FOR CNO-N5JA AND DIRSSP  
AIRFORCE FOR HQ USAF/ASX AND ASXP  
DTRA FOR OP-OS OP-OSA AND DIRECTOR  
NSC FOR LOOK  
DIA FOR LEA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/17/2019

TAGS: KACT MARR PARM PREL RS US START  
SUBJECT: START FOLLOW-ON NEGOTIATIONS, GENEVA  
(SFO-GVA-VII): (U) ICELAND OFFERS TO HOST START FOLLOW-ON  
SIGNING CEREMONY

Classified By: A/S Rose E. Gottemoeller, United States  
START Negotiator. Reasons: 1.4(b) and (d).

¶1. (U) This is SFO-GVA-VII-112.

¶2. (S) Deputy Head of Delegation Ambassador Marcie Ries met with Ambassador Kristinn Arnason, Iceland's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva at 1:30 p.m., December 8, 2009, at the U.S. Mission. Arnason requested the meeting to ensure the United States was aware that Iceland was ready to host a START Follow-on (SFO) treaty signing ceremony.

¶3. (S) Arnason delivered a non-paper as follows:

Begin text:

An article in the New York Times on 2 December stated that officials in Geneva were talking about holding a signing ceremony of the new arms treaty between Russia and the United States in Reykjavik, the scene of the 1986 Summit between President Gorbachev and President Reagan. The Icelandic government is ready to offer Iceland as the venue for the signing ceremony. In light of the Summit in 1986, Iceland is historically equally important to both Russia and the U.S. A signing ceremony in Iceland would be very symbolic and have an added attraction to the media. We can prepare such a signing ceremony with short notice. The signing ceremony could take place at Hofdi House or elsewhere in Iceland.

End text.

¶4. (S) Ries responded that we did not yet know when the new treaty would be ready to be signed but bore in mind the President's comment that the treaty should be ready for signature by the end of the year. Ries said she appreciated Iceland's gracious offer and their willingness to organize an event even on short notice. She said she would convey the offer to Washington.

¶5. (S) Arnason said he delivered the same points to Russian Head of Delegation, Ambassador Antonov, and that Iceland's Ambassador in Washington hoped to soon convey the points to the Department.

¶6. (U) Gottemoeller sends.  
GRIFFITHS